DFIRS NEWS
Delaware Fire Incident Reporting System

Message from the Program Manager

With all the available 2002 data compiled, department specific reports are available upon request. Simply e-mail Crystal Beach at **crystal.beach@state.de.us** with your information request.

Coding

Initially the SFMO instructed users to avoid using Actions Taken Code 86 (Investigate**)** due to internal agency use. Effective immediately please disregard and feel free to utilize this code for any applicable incident report.

Internal Incident Reports

Even if your department did not receive an incident number from a 911 center, please remember to record any assistance you provided to the public during our most recent snowstorm. To enter incidents that a 911 incident number was not obtained for simply create a unique internal number for the incident number. A suggested numbering scheme would be to use your station number followed by a year specific sequential number. For example, Indian River would record their first 2003 non-911 incident report as Incident #8003001.

Remember incident reporting is a helpful method for accurately recording the demands placed on the fire service.

Coding Questions

A recent question received at the SFMO is, **"How do I record frozen sprinkler pipes tripping a fire alarm?"**

Answer:

- Record the incident as incident type 731 – Sprinkler activation due to the failure or malfunction of the sprinkler system.

Other recently submitted coding questions:

"How do I record a faulty smoke detector battery?"

Answer:

Record the incident as incident type 733 – Smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

"What is the incident type of a brush fire that was extinguished upon arrival?"

Answer:

Record the incident as incident type 600 – Good Intent. Remember incident type is what you find when you arrive at the scene.

"How do I record a garbage truck where only the trash (not the truck) was on fire?"

Answer:

Record the incident as incident type 132 – Road freight or transport vehicle fire. Section H1 of Fire Module should be coded as "1" and Area of Fire Origin should be coded as "82"

"What is the proper property use code for a townhouse?"

Answer:

Record the property use code as 429 – this code includes apartments, condos, townhouses, row houses, & tenements.

Incident Type

Incident type is the "key" to incident reporting. By improperly recording the incident type departments can cause themselves more work than necessary and most importantly provide false information for statistical reporting. A good example of this can be found for fires in buildings that are confined to non-combustible containers. Use codes 113-118 of the structure fire codes when there is no flame damage beyond the non-combustible container. For example, fire in food on the stove that was confined to the pot is code (113). By using these confined codes only the Basic Module of incident reporting needs to be completed. Please remember the following when recording incident type:

Incident type is the actual situation that emergency personnel found on the scene when they arrived. **The incident type reported here is not always the same as the incident type initially dispatched**.

FY 2003 GRANT APPLICANT WORKSHOP SCHEDULE
USFA Release Date: January 17, 2003

USFA intends to make the application for the 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program available on-line during the month of March 2003. Beginning at the end of January and continuing through March of 2003, we will be holding workshops around the country to explain this competitive grant program to fire service personnel.

We anticipate that the program and the application for the 2003 grant program will be similar to 2002, with some minor changes to improve the application process and the effectiveness of fire grant awards. However, it is unclear at this time how much funding will be available for the grants.

We will update this website as soon as the 2003 program guidance and workshop schedules become available.

****

Delaware's workshop is being held at the Delaware State Fire School March 10th at 1900 hours. No pre-registration is required.

New Participation Recognition Section

Since there are only 3 departments (Christiana, Talleyville, and Wilmington Manor) in the state not currently participating in the DFIRS program the below recognition section will only include new participating departments. All three of the above departments are currently in the process of implementing incident reporting and should be on board in a very short period of time.

Congratulations!
The following departments are active electronic DFIRS participants:

> **56. Mill Creek Fire Co**
> **57. Cranston Heights Fire Co**
> **58. Minquadale Fire Co#1 Inc**

For more information regarding the Delaware Fire Incident Reporting System (DFIRS), please contact Crystal Beach at 302-739-5665 or crystal.beach@state.de.us

PLEASE POST FOR ALL DEPARTMENT MEMBERS